GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:48
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
IMPROVING MOBILE PHONE LINES CONNECTIVITY
Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the mobile phone lines connectivity in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has set any target for increasing mobile phone lines in the country during the current year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the position of mobile phone lines connectivity until June, 2005?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 48 FOR 27TH JULY, 2005 REGARDING IMPROVING MOBILE PHONE LINES CONNECTIVITY.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Telecom sector has been liberalized. There are no restrictions on the number of operators in any service area. Presently, on an average four to six operators are providing mobile services in each service area. As per the Licence Agreement for each Metro Service area, they are required to cover 90% of the service area in one year and for each Telecom Circle Service Area, they are to provide mobile service in at least 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters within three years of effective date of Licence. The choice of District Headquarters/Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns lies with the Licensee depending on their business decision.

(d) & (e) The Government has set a target of 250 Million telephone lines (Fixed and Mobile) by 2007.

(f) As on 30.06.2005, the total number of mobile subscribers in the country are 5,67,26,605 [GSM-4,49,20,004 and CDMA-1,18,06,601].